

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

10. (Currently amended). A method of treating or preventing non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus comprising administering to a human or an animal an effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition or a dietary supplement comprising from about 0.1 to about 1000 mg of phytanic acid, ~~a phytanic acid precursor~~, or a derivative of phytanic acid.

11. (Currently amended). A method according to claim 10 wherein the phytanic acid derivative, ~~or phytanic acid precursor~~ is derived from phytanic acid.

12. (Currently amended). A method according to claim 10 wherein the phytanic acid derivative ~~or phytanic acid precursor~~ is derived from phytenic acid.

13. (Currently amended). A method according to claim 10 wherein the phytanic acid derivative ~~or phytanic acid precursor~~ is selected from the group consisting of ~~phytol, hydroxy-phytanic acid~~, phytanic esters, phytanic amides, hydroxy-phytanic esters, hydroxy-phytanic amides, hydroxy-phytenic acid, ~~phytenic esters, phytenic amides, hydroxy-phytenic esters, hydroxy-phytenic amides~~, and combinations thereof.

20. (New). A method according to claim 10, wherein the effective dose is from about 0.1 to about 500 mg.

21. (New). A method according to claim 10, wherein the effective dose is from about 0.1 to about 100 mg.

22. (New). A method according to claim 10, wherein the effective dose results in a daily dose of the phytanic acid of about 0.1 to about 50 mg/kg body weight.

23. (New). A method according to claim 10, wherein the effective dose results in a daily dose of the phytanic acid of about 0.5 to about 40 mg/kg/day.

24. (New). A method according to claim 10, wherein the effective dose results in a daily dose of the phytanic acid of about 1.0 to about 20 mg/kg/day.